

Message Text

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11

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SS-15 MED-03 CPR-02 A-01 INR-10

CIAE-00 NSC-10 DODE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /062 W

----- 028119

P R 230414Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6301

INFO CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER HI

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, VS

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (MEDICAL) FOR THE
VENERABLE TAM GIAC, RVNAF CHIEF OF BUDDHIST CHAPLAINS

REF: A. DAO SGN RVN 171050Z JUL 73(PASEP); B. CINCPAC 200303Z JULY;
C. STATE 151025

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. REF A REPORTED THE SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE VENERABLE TAM GIAC, CHIEF OF RVNAF BUDDHIST CHAPLAINS AND THE LEADER OF THE QUOC TU BUDDHIST FACTION, AND STATED THAT DAO HAS RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE RVNAF SURGEON GENERAL, MGEN VU NGOC HOAN. REF A ALSO STATED THAT THE EMB MED DIR, DR R B OLNEY, HAD REVIEWED THE CASE AND BELIEVED THAT MEDICAL TREATMENT IN THE US WAS INDICATED. REF A FURTHER STATED THAT THE EMB BELIEVES ASSISTANCE TO THE VENERABLE TAM GIAC WOULD BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. REF B PROVIDED CINCPACS RECOMMENDATION FOR HOSPITALIZATION IN THE US.

2. REF C NOTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT PROGNOSIS IN THE CASE IS EXTREMELY POOR AND STATED THAT, IF SO, LITTLE IF ANY BENEFIT WOULD SEEM LIKELY TO ACCRUE FROM TRAVEL TO AND TREATMENT IN
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THE US. REF C THEREFORE REQUESTED THE EMB OBTAIN ADDITIONAL

INFORMATION ON THE PATIENTS CONDITION.

3. A CONFERENCE WAS HELD AUG 7, 1973, WITH BG CHI HUY THANH, DIR OF THE CONG HOA HOSPITAL, MEMBERS OF HIS MEDICAL STAFF ATTENDING THE VENERABLE, AND MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE RVNAF SURGEON GENERAL. DR R B OLNEY, EMB MED DIR, AND REPS OF DAO AND THE POL SECTION ATTENDED. THE ILLNESS AFFECTING THE VENERABLE THICH TAM GIAC WAS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL.

4. THE VENERABLE'S DOCTORS DURING THE AUG 7 CONSULTATION STRESSED THE PROGRESSION OF CHEST TUMORS. ONE IS THE SIZE OF A SMALL ORANGE, RIGHT LOWER LOBE. THERE ARE TWO OTHERS, ONE IN THE PERIHILAR AREA AND ONE IN THE RIGHT APEX. COMPLICATIONS IN THE BRAIN AND LIVER ARE ALSO PRESENT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE CASE HAS NOW PASSED THE POINT WHERE TREATMENT IS LIKELY TO BE AVAILING. THE VENERABLE'S DOCTORS NOW CONSIDER HIM TERMINAL, WITH PROGNOSIS OF "SEVERAL MONTHS" YET TO LIVE.

5. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE VENERABLE'S SENIOR POSITION BOTH IN RVNAF AND IN THE BUDDHIST COMMUNITY, THE RVNAF SURGEON GENERAL FURTHER REQUESTED THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN SPECIALIST TO REVIEW THE CASE AND MAKE A DETERMINATION. HE STATED FRANKLY THAT THIS WOULD ASSIST HIM GREATLY IN INFORMING THE VENERABLE'S ASSOCIATES OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CASE AND THE CERTAIN UNAVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL THERAPY LIKELY TO SAVE HIS LIFE.

6. IN VIEW OF THE DISTINGUISHED POSITION OF THE VENERABLE TAM GIAC, WHO IS ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PRO-GVN BUDDHIST LEADERS AND ONE WHOSE INFLUENCE IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY MODERATE AND HELPFUL ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE USG, WE THOUGH THIS AN UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE RVNAF SURGEON GENERAL AND ALSO TO BE IN THE US INTEREST. WE DISCOVERED THAT A DISTINGUISHED CANCER SPECIALIST FROM THE MAYO CLINIC, DR R M KIELY, HAD JUST ARRIVED IN SVN FOR SERVICE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION-USAID AGREEMENT. DR KIELY AGREED TO EXAMINE THE PATIENT, AND THIS WAS DONE AUG 14. DR KIELY'S FINDINGS REGRETTABLY CONFIRMED THE DIAGNOSIS OF THE VENERABLE'S PHYSICIANS THAT NO SURGICAL PROCEDURES AND NO CHEMOLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERAPY AVAILABLE ANYWHERE INCLUDING THE US WOULD AVAIL. DR KIELY ON REQUEST OF CONG HOA HOSPITAL DIR BGEN THANH INFORMED THE VENERABLE TAM GIAC OF THIS IN THE PRESENCE OF FRIENDS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY.

7. IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THE EMB WILL RECEIVE ANY FURTHER REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR THE VENERABLE TAM GIAC.
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